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Jeanne de Bruijn, Melinda Mills and Gerhard van de Bunt

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Letter from the Editorial Team

As of January 2004, a new Editorial Team, consisting of Jeanne de Bruijn, Melinda Mills and Gerhard van de Bunt, assumed the editorship of *International Sociology* (IS). We inherit a healthy journal from Saïd Arjomand, who built the journal's international appeal over the past five years. The International Sociological Association (ISA) launched the first issue of IS in 1986. The first editor was Martin Albrow, followed by Richard Grathoff (1991), Roberto Cipriani (1996) and Saïd Arjomand (1999). IS was established to publish articles that deserve worldwide attention and reflect the research and interests of the international community of sociologists.

As the official journal of the ISA, the journal serves and reaches a wide international audience. In 2003, around 3000 ISA members and 600 libraries or institutions around the world received the journal, a readership that is a unique asset of the journal. During the past 20 years, the journal has published four issues a year; some of them have appeared as special issues under the direction of an invited editor. These include: 'Rethinking Civilization Analysis' (guest editor: Edward Tiryakian, 2001) and 'Current Development Issues in Asia' (guest editor: Stella Quah, 1997). IS also has a strong history of organizing debate issues, such as the renowned 1993 (8[3]) issue on social class, which includes three of the top five most frequently cited articles in the journal. These are John Pakulski's 'The Dying of Class or Marxist Class Theory?', Terry Nichols Clark, Seymour Martin Lipset and Michael Rempel with 'The Declining Political Significance of Social Class', and Mike Hout, Clem Brooks and Jeff Manza's article, 'The Persistence of Classes in Post-Industrial Societies'. This topic is also related to our most cited article ever in the journal, titled: 'Are Social Classes Dying?' by, again, Clark and Lipset.

The trend towards globalization and international communication between scholars has led to a new breed of sociological research that spans regional divides and adjacent disciplines and fields. We are committed to stimulating the lively discussion and debate over a wide variety of topics that are relevant for sociologists around the world. Tentative forthcoming special issues or sections will address topics such as trust and control in organizations, theoretical and methodological issues in international comparative research, international perspectives on terrorism, and revisiting our prominent 1993 debate issue on the persistence of class. We are also planning a special issue in 2006 to mark the 20-year anniversary of IS. Finally, with the upcoming XVI ISA World Conference of Sociology in

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Durban, South Africa in 2006, our attention will turn to African sociological perspectives.

We are committed to maintaining the international and varied nature of the journal and to continuing to support the foundations built by previous editors. Our aim is to focus on deeper theoretical and methodological exploration and analysis, theory-driven and empirical research, and to reach out to previously underrepresented regions of the world. For this, we rely on the input from our readers with ideas regarding the ways in which we can continue to address our international mandate and excellence as a high-quality sociological journal.

We are excited to announce that in 2006, *IS* will expand from four to six issues, with two issues devoted entirely to book reviews. The *International Sociology Review of Books (ISRB)* will be published bi-annually, as numbers 3 and 6 of *IS*. The new book review editor, Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, has ambitious plans to showcase international books. Highlighting work available in different languages, the *ISRB* will provide a platform for informing sociologists about varieties of sociological thought that would ordinarily not be accessible. The focus will be on publishing review essays, book reviews and reports on sociological publications of all kinds, with an emphasis on sociology around the world. Interested scholars and potential reviewers are invited to contact the Editor of the *ISRB* via email (dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il), after referring to the *IS* website for more details.

The past months have involved editing previously accepted articles and the enviable task of reading dozens of new articles from around the world and having the opportunity to correspond with the authors behind those articles. We are grateful for the support that we have received from the previous editor, the esteemed sociologists from around the world who have joined our Editorial Board, along with many others who have agreed to review our articles on an ad hoc, but nonetheless essential, basis. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the work and contributions of Jennifer Platt, the previous Book Editor of *IS*. Another asset to the editorial board is Daniel Bertaux and Ainhoa de Federico de la Rúa, who engage in the painstaking task of translating the abstracts into French and Spanish.

The number of articles that are submitted to *IS* is high, and we hope to increase this in the coming years to heighten the quality and impact of the journal. The volume of submissions is encouraging, yet places high demands on our editorial board. If you are interested in reviewing for the journal, please contact us. Reviewing manuscripts is a particularly enlightening and rewarding process for younger scholars or those interested in publishing within the international academic community. Reviewing provides inside information about the publishing norms,

procedures and standards that removes the mystery out of a process that is central to academic life.

We invite you to not only read our articles, but to consider the journal as an outlet for your own work. Sociological debate and study on an international level remain of paramount importance and have great potential to move forward. *IS* should be at the forefront of these developments. Please join us in this debate by submitting your articles for review, volunteering to review other scholars' articles, contacting us with your ideas and continuing to read and cite *IS*.

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